

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTING: RADIO/TV - FEBRUARY
10, EVENING

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 4

1. KALB (CBS RADIO FROM JERUSALEM): KISSINGER HAD ASKED FOR A FREE EVENING BUT WITHIN A HALF-HOUR AFTER HIS ARRIVAL HERE TONIGHT HE WAS QUICKLY INVITED TO WHAT DIPLOMATS CALL A WORKING DINNER WITH PM RABIN. THUS OPENING THIS CRUCIAL WEEK OF TALKS WHICH THE SECRETARY STILL CALLS "EXPLORATORY" BUT WHICH MAY LEAD NEXT MONTH TO ANOTHER EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DEAL IN THE SINAI -- OBVIOUSLY IF THE PROPER TERMS CAN BE REACHED. KISSINGER IS AWARE OF A COOLER, TOUGHER ISRAELI ATTITUDE THESE DAYS AND IN HIS AIRPORT STATEMENT THE SECRETARY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH MAY NOT BE THE ONLY ONE AND IF OTHER MEANS OR FORUMS AS HE PUT IT COULD ALSO ACHIEVE RAPID PROGRESS, HE INDICATED HE IS ALL FOR THEM.

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ALL OF THAT IS DIPLOMATIC SHORTHAND FOR KISSINGER'S UNDERSTANDING OF A GROWING SENTIMENT HERE IN ISRAEL TO GIVE UP HIS STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH AND THROW THE WHOLE NEGOTIATION BACK IN THE LAP OF THE RECONVENED GENEVA

CONFERENCE. KISSINGER DOES NOT THINK THAT WOULD DO MUCH GOOD BECAUSE IT WOULD LIKELY INSURE A STALEMATE. HE THINKS THAT MAY BE WHAT SOME ISRAELI OFFICIALS WANT, BUT BY NO MEANS ALL, AND THE SECRETARY IS STILL PRESSING FOR A DEAL BY THE END OF MARCH.

2. ANDERSON (GROUP W RADIO): LAST OCTOBER HENRY KISSINGER'S PLAN FOR STEP-BY-STEP NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB NATIONS WAS IN APPARENT RUIN. THE ARAB WORLD HAD APPARENTLY GIVEN ITSELF OVER TO THE RADICALS AND THE ISRAELIS FLATLY REFUSED TO HAVE ANY DEALINGS WITH THAT FACTION. IN THE INTERVENING THREE MONTHS KISSINGER HAS QUIETLY MANAGED TO SET ASIDE THE RESULTS OF THAT RABAT CONFERENCE AND HIS STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH IS BACK ON TRACK AGAIN. HOW LONG IT REMAINS ON TRACK IS ANOTHER QUESTION. ... HE APPARENTLY HAS THE MODERATE ARAB LEADERS SUCH AS SADAT OF EGYPT AND ASSAD OF SYRIA SOLD ON THE GRADUAL PLAN.

SOME ISRAELIS ARE NOW SUGGESTING THAT PERHAPS THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE SHIFTED TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE WARNED THAT GENEVA WOULD SPELL AN ALMOST CERTAIN STALEMATE AND THAT, PERHAPS, IS WHAT SOME OF THE ISRAELI POLITICIANS HAVE IN MIND -- A POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE END TO THE PROCESS OF ISRAEL GIVING BACK ALMOST ALL OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORY IN RETURN FOR SOMETHING INTANGIBLE AND VAGUE SUCH AS A DECLARATION OF PEACE BY THE ARABS. KISSINGER HAS INSISTED THAT THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE FOR SUCCESS; OTHERWISE HE WOULD NOT BE HERE. BUT THE REAL RESULTS WON'T COME ON THIS TEN-DAY TRIP. MORE LIKELY THE RESULTS WILL BE SHOWN NEXT MONTH WHEN HE RETURNS AGAIN.

3. KALB (CBS RADIO, 6:00 P.M., JERUSALEM): KISSINGER PUTS THE ODDS AT 50-50, MAYBE SLIGHTLY BETTER, THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO ARRANGE ANOTHER EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DEAL IN THE SINAI, PERHAPS BY THE END OF NEXT MONTH. SHORTLY UNCLASSIFIED

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AFTER HIS ARRIVAL HERE FOR WHAT HE THOUGHT WOULD BE A FREE EVENING, THE SECRETARY CONFERRED AT A WORKING DINNER WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN. THEN HIS SPOKESMAN SAID THAT HE WAS VERY HOPEFUL ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE. THE SECRETARY IS ARGUING THAT IN THE LONG RUN IT IS IN ISRAEL'S INTEREST TO MAKE CONCESSIONS NOW, TO BUY TIME TO BUILD UP THE ARAB MODERATES, TO HOLD OFF THE POSSIBILITY OF WAR AND A NEW OIL EMBARGO, TO SPARE AMERICA THE AGONY OF A WAR OR PEACE DECISION IN THE MIDST OF POLITICAL DECAY.

4. ABC - SMITH REASONER (3RD ITEM ON PROGRAM):
SMITH: KISSINGER TODAY BEGAN ANOTHER PEACE-SEEKING

MISSION TO THE ME, HIS TENTH SINCE ASSUMING OFFICE. HIS MAJOR GOAL THIS TIME IS TO BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO THE US PEACE INITIATIVE AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF DIPLOMATIC STALE-MATE.

LOU CIOFFI (ON SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL): HENRY KISSINGER ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE ARRIVED IN TEL AVIV HOPEFUL THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO WORK OUT THE BASIS OF A NEW AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT, AN AGREEMENT FOR ANOTHER TROOP WITHDRAWAL BY ISRAEL IN THE SINAI DESERT. AFTER BEING WELCOMED BY FONMIN ALLON, SECRETARY MADE A SHORT AIRPORT STATEMENT. (FOLLOWED BY HAK ON FILM AT MICROPHONE DELIVERING STATEMENT.)

CIOFFI: THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM LATELY OF MR. KISSINGER'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. TODAY THE OPPOSITION PARTY, THE LIKUD, CALLED FOR NEW ELECTIONS TO PREVENT THE GOVT FROM GIVING BACK A LARGE CHUNK OF THE SINAI IN RETURN FOR AN EGYPTIAN PLEDGE OF NON-BELLIGERENCY. THE LIKUD POSITION MAY BE EXTREME BUT THERE IS A GROWING SENTIMENT THAT ISRAEL HAS GIVEN ENOUGH AWAY ALREADY WITHOUT GETTING VERY MUCH IN RETURN. THE FEELING IS EVEN STRONGER ON THE GOLAN HTS WHERE THEY FEEL THE SYRIANS HAVE SHOWN VERY LITTLE WILLINGNESS TO TALK PEACE. HERE THERE IS PRACTICALLY NO ROOM FOR MANEUVER. THE DISTANCES ARE SHORTER WITH THE FRONT LINES ONLY 18 MILES FROM ISRAELI SOIL.

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ISRAELI (ON CAMERA): KISSINGER TALKS ABOUT QUOTE UNQUOTE SIX LOUSY KILOMETERS. I'M NOT SURE HE REALIZES HOW MANY SETTLEMENTS THERE ARE UP HERE AND HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE LIVING HERE.

CIOFFI: THERE IS A LOT OF SCEPTICISM ABOUT THE CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS AND ABOUT THE KIND OF AGREEMENT THAT KISSINGER WILL BE ABLE TO WORK OUT WITH THE ARABS. THE ISRAELIS WILL BE ASKING FOR A LOT MORE THAN THEY HAVE GOTTEN SO FAR. EVEN BEFORE KISSINGER ARRIVED, IT WAS CLEAR THAT HIS TASK WAS NOT ONLY GOING TO BE DELICATE, BUT ALSO DIFFICULT. HIS IMAGE HAS SUFFERED HERE AND HE IS NOW GOING TO HAVE TO CONVINCE THE ISRAELIS ALL OVER AGAIN THAT HIS WAY IS STILL THE BEST WAY TO PEACE.

SMITH. THERE WAS MORE STATISTICAL EVIDENCE TODAY THAT KISSINGER'S POPULARITY IS ON THE WANE IN ISRAEL. A PUBLIC OPINION POLL TAKEN BY AN ISRAEL NEWSPAPER SHOWS

ONLY 25 PERCENT OF ISRAELIS SUPPORT KISSINGER'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO PEACE. THAT COMPARES TO 64 PERCENT IN FAVOR OF KISSINGER'S EFFORTS IN A POLL LAST JUNE.

5. CBS TV EVENING NEWS (KALB FROM JERUSALEM): KISSINGER DID NOT EXACTLY BUBBLE WITH OPTIMISM ON HIS ARRIVAL HERE TONIGHT, BUT HE STILL THINKS THE ODDS ARE 50-50 OR BETTER THAT HE CAN HELP ARRANGE ANOTHER EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DEAL IN THE SINAI, PERHAPS BY THE END OF NEXT MONTH. THE SECRETARY HINTED IN HIS AIRPORT STATEMENT THAT HE IS FLEXIBLE ABOUT RETURNING TO GENEVA BUT HE STILL PREFERS THIS STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH.

HAK: "THE UNITED STATES OF COURSE IS NOT COMMITTED TO ANY PARTICULAR APPROACH. IT IS COMMITTED TO RAPID PROGRESS. WE ARE PREPARED TO EXPLORE OTHER MEANS AND OTHER FORUMS IF NECESSARY IN ORDER TO MAKE RAPID PROGRESS."

KISSINGER HAD HOPED FOR A FREE EVENING BUT PM RABIN QUICKLY INVITED HIM TO WHAT DIPLOMATS CALL A WORKING DINNER. KISSINGER HAS A PRETTY GOOD IDEA BOUT THE SHAPE OF THE SETTLEMENT, BASED ON PRELIMINARY SUGGESTIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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FROM BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT. RABIN FOR HIS PART, RUNS A SPLIT CABINET -- HE AND FM ALLON FAVORING FURTHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS IN THE SINAI BUT ONLY IN EXCHANGE FOR POLITICAL CONCESSIONS FROM EGYPT. DEFENSE MINISTER PERES, DUBIOUS ABOUT THAT, FAVORS A SWIFT RETURN TO GENEVA. THE RIGHT-WING OPPOSITION PARTY, THE LIKUD, TIMED A NEWS CONFERENCE FOR KISSINGER'S ARRIVAL, ITS SPOKESMAN EXPRESSING HIS PARTY'S SKEPTICISM ABOUT KISSINGER AND HIS POLICY. (SPOKESMAN EXCERPT FOLLOWED, LARGELY INAUDIBLE BUT CONTAINING REFERENCE TO HAK AS "NOT A FRIEND OF ISRAEL TODAY BUT MAYBE A MAN WHO ASSISTS THE ENEMIES OF ISRAEL.")

AFTER THIS WEEK OF NEGOTIATING WITH THE ISRAELIS AND THE ARABS KISSINGER WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON TO FORMULATE AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL AND THEN WILL COME BACK HERE TO THE MIDDLE EAST ON OR ABOUT MARCH 10 TO CONCLUDE ANOTHER SINAI DEAL. THAT IS THE SECRETARY'S CURRENT PLAN AND HOPE.

6. NBC TV EVENING NEWS (VALERIANI IN JERUSALEM): KISSINGER CHANGED HIS NORMAL MIDDLE EAST TRAVEL PATTERN, AND THIS TIME CAME TO ISRAEL FIRST, RATHER THAN EGYPT, IN ORDER TO AVOID THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS BRINGING EGYPTIAN DEMANDS FOR ISRAEL TO SUBMIT TO. IN A BRIEF AIRPORT STATEMENT, KISSINGER TOOK NOTE OF THE DEBATE IN ISRAEL OVER WHICH NEGOTIATING ROAD TO FOLLOW. (KISSINGER AIRPORT ARRIVAL STATEMENT FOLLOWED). IN JERUSALEM, KISSINGER WENT TO A WORKING DINNER WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND OTHER CABINET OFFICIALS. HE SAID HE HAS NOT YET HAD A FORMAL PROPOSAL FROM EITHER THE

ISRAELIS OR THE EGYPTIANS, BUT HE DOES HAVE IDEAS FROM BOTH SIDES, AND HIS GOAL IS TO TRANSLATE THOSE IDEAS INTO CONCRETE NEGOTIATIONS. IF, AS EXPECTED, ISRAEL AND EGYPT DECIDE TO TALK SERIOUSLY ABOUT EXCHANGING MORE OCCUPIED TERRITORY FOR POLITICAL CONCESSIONS, THEN KISSINGER PLANS TO COME BACK TO THE AREA DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN MARCH WITH SOME AMERICAN PROPOSALS WHICH HE HOPES WILL ENABLE THE TWO COUNTRIES TO REACH ANOTHER FORMAL AGREEMENT.

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7. WIRES: AP'S SCHWEID REPORTED HAK MET WITH RABIN AND ISRAELI NEGOTIATING TEAM IN TWO-HOUR DINNER DESCRIBED BY BOTH SIDES AS "GENERAL REVIEW" OF POSITIONS. NO DETAILS AVAILABLE TO NEWSMEN, HE SAID, BUT PRESENCE OF ISRAELI CHIEF OF STAFF, LT. GEN. GUR, "COULD INDICATE THAT MILITARY ASPECTS OF AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL" IN SINAI DESERT WERE ON THE AGENDA. SCHWEID SAID RABIN SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED MONDAY TALKS AS AIMED AT SETTING UP AGENDA FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATION, WITH "NO SPECIFICS" DISCUSSED. HE QUOTES ANDERSON THAT HAK HAS SCHEDULED PRIVATE BREAKFAST MEETING WITH RABIN TUESDAY, FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER SESSION WITH FULL WORKING GROUPS ON BOTH SIDES.

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